

Cape May Star and Wave



160TH YEAR NO. 43 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2014 75¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Page B1



CAPE MAY NATIVE EARNS USCG AWARD

Page B7



Lower asks prosecutor, state to investigate MUA

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council voted unanimously Monday to ask for an investigation of activities at the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA) by the county Prosecutor's Office, state Local Finance Board and state Attorney General's Office.

Mayor Michael Beck asked Town-

ship Solicitor Ron Gelzunas to send all data he could collect, including a surveillance video from the MUA and a series of emails the township obtained through the Open Public Records Act (OPRA). He said the investigation needed to center on whether MUA board members and a staffer acted without its own board of commissioners meeting and approving the action. Gelzunas said the state Local Finance Board could dissolve

the MUA if it finds wrongdoing.

Following an Oct. 1 MUA meeting, Councilman James Neville was captured on surveillance video leaving the MUA meeting carrying a map mounted on poster board. Deputy Mayor Norris Clark made a presentation to council including slides and an organizational chart. He said Neville borrowed the map, which was the intellectual property of the township and pertained to his ward, in plain

sight of a police officer.

Clark showed a timeline of activities involving the MUA and the Lower Township Republican organization that began Oct. 2. The township filed an OPRA request to obtain emails to follow the activities among the MUA, its solicitor and Lower Township Republican leaders.

According to Clark, MUA Office Manager Sharon Otto sent a surveillance video of Neville removing the

map from the building to MUA Solicitor Jeff Barnes.

Clark said Kevin Lare, a Republican former deputy mayor of the township and a purchasing agent with the county, on Oct. 3 filed an OPRA request to the MUA for a copy of the surveillance video of Neville removing the map.

At 2:05 p.m. that day, Neville re-

See Investigate MUA, Page A4

Candidates stick to guns on LTMUA, police HQ

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — While recent Lower Township Council meetings have been contentious and attracted members of the public who occasionally shout out comments, Lower Township Candidates Night on Oct. 15 was civil and orderly.

The Star and Wave and WIBG Radio-94.3 FM sponsored the event, held in the Millman Community Center. The Cape May County League of Women Voters moderated the event, which featured six of seven candidates for Township Council. Ward One candidate Joseph Will was unable to attend.

The event was divided into three 30-minute segments, one for each of the township's three wards. Mary Conley, president of the county League of Women Voters, presented questions to the candidates that

See Stick to guns, Page A3

Candidates seek change, transparency in Cape May

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The five candidates for three seats on City Council had their night to state their views and demonstrate their grasp of issues affecting Cape May at a Candidates Night Oct. 16.

The event was sponsored by the Taxpayers Association of Cape May and moderated by the Cape May County League of Women Voters. Corrine Robinson presented 11 questions to candidates Charles Hendricks, Jerry Inderwies Jr., Shaine Meier, Bea Pessagno and John Van de Vaarst.

Responding to a question about the city in the past decade spending hundreds of thousands of public dollars for reports and studies from a number of consultants with little progress resulting from a "seemingly endless parade of outside experts," Inderwies said it

See Transparency, Page A2



Deborah McGuire/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

All witches in Cape May are good witches, as demonstrated by Emily Rose Keating, 3, of Erma, as she participates in the annual Halloween parade Oct. 19 in Cape May. Youngsters went trick-or-treating on the Washington Street Mall following the parade. Awards were presented for best costumes at the end. More photos, A7



Henry, dressed as an aviator, and Bobbie Mullock, 6 months, of Cape May, participate in the Cape May Halloween parade. At right, the 'S'more Family' — Robert, Danny, 4, and Jeanne Woerner, of Sewell.



Kim Royster/Special to the STAR AND WAVE
Contestants line up for judging in the Lower Township Halloween parade Oct. 18 at Historic Cold Spring Village.

Seniors protest clinic at center

Fearing sickness, group contends site ill prepared

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — A group of seniors picketed outside the Lower Township Senior Center on Oct. 16, voicing concerns about the county's plan to open a satellite health clinic in the building two afternoons per month.

The clinic was scheduled to open on that date.

"We are concerned about the use of the facility as a clinic because it has not been prepared," said

Carmela Pallotta, a part-time art instructor at the center. "The space they want to use is carpeted, has no sink, has no privacy, they intend to install a curtain to keep people away from whatever procedures they want to perform here."

Last month, the county Health

See Senior protest, Page A4



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Patrons of the Lower Township Senior Center do not want a health clinic operating in the facility without better accommodations for the ill.

LUCKY BONES BACKWATER GRILLE

OPEN DAILY FOR LUNCH, DINNER & LATE NIGHT

Serving Lunch & Dinner from 11:30am

Organic Beef & Chicken • Best Gluten Free Menu • Thin Crust Brick Oven Pizza

Lucky 13 \$13 SPECIALS ALL DAY til 5pm

Coldest Beer in Cape May 14 on Tap

Now Offering a Complete Gluten-Free Menu From Appetizers to Desserts

1200 RT. 109 SOUTH CAPE MAY, NJ • 609-884-BONE (2663) • WWW.LUCKYBONESGRILLE.COM

